

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 NIC-01 DLOS-03 COA-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 /103 W

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R 090551Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3432

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T HONG KONG 286

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: ENRG CH

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY OIL WHARF AT HUANGTAO COMPLETED

REF: (A) HK 13393, DEC 11, 1974; (B) HK 14026,
DEC. 31, 1974

1. A JANUARY 7 SHANTUNG BROADCAST HAS REVEALED THAT A
"TEMPORARY WHARF" HAS BEEN COMPLETED AT THE "HUANGTAO
OIL PORT." THIS IS THE FIRST OPEN-SOURCE REFERENCE TO
HUANGTAO. A "HAUANGTAO ISLAND" IS LISTED IN THE "BOARD
OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES GAZETTER" AT 3603N, 12013E, I.E.
IN VICINITY OF TSINGTAO. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS HAVE
PINPOINTED AN OIL PORT ON THE NORTHERN THIRD OF CHIPOSAN

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(HUANGTAO) ISLAND OPPOSITE THE PORT OF TSINGTAO.

2. ACCORDING TO THE BROADCAST, THE KEY TO THE PROJECT WAS THE INSTALLATION OF "LARGE UNDERWATER OIL PIPES," EACH 500 METERS LONG AND WEIGHING 280 TONS (SIC). THE BROADCAST SPEAKS OF "THREE MAJOR JOINT OPERATIONS" DURING THE "BUSY PERIOD" OF CONSTRUCTION, INDICATING THAT THE LENGTH OF THE PIPE IS AT LEAST 1500 METERS. THE "PLAN-NING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION" OF THE TEMPORARY WHARF WERE ATTRIBUTED TO "OUR OWN EFFORTS," AND THE BROADCAST ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DIFFICULTIES WERE ENCOUNTERED IN LAYING "SUCH LARGE PIPES SAFELY AND ACCURATELY ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA."

3. ACCORDING TO INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, AN OIL JETTY-TERMINAL HAS BEEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT HUANGTAO, WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN LINKED BY PIPELINE WITH THE SHENG-LI OIL FIELD (REF A). THE UNDERWATER PORTION DESCRIBED IN THE BROADCAST COULD BE THE FINAL LINK TO THE ISLAND. THE JETTY IS REPORTEDLY CAPABLE OF HANDLING SHIPS WITH A DRAUGHT OF 75 FEET (250,000 D.W.T.) AND PLANS ARE TO INCREASE THIS TO 90 FEET (OEL-64,245). THE "TEMPORARY WHARF" IS PROBABLY CONNECTED IN SOME WAY WITH THE JETTY, THOUGH THIS IS NOT CLEAR FROM THE BROADCAST OR OTHER SOURCES. THE INTENTION, HOWEVER, TO MAKE HUANGTAO A MAJOR OIL PORT FOR HANDLING OIL FROM SHENG-LI (ESTIMATED 1974 PRODUCTION 7-11 MILLION TONS) OR PERHAPS POTENTIALLY FROM NEARBY OFFSHORE AREAS IS CLEAR (REF B).

4. IT ALSO SEEMS EVIDENT THAT THE PRC IS BEGINNING TO DEVELOP THE CAPABILITY, BY "TEMPORARY" MEANS AT LEAST, TO HANDLE VERY LARGE TANKERS BY BYPASSING SOME OF ITS BOTTLENECKED REGULAR PORTS AND CONSTRUCTING OIL-HANDLING FACILITIES AT NEW OR LESS CROWDED ONES.
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